

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A vehicle door latch device comprising:

an outer open lever 28 displaceable to an actuated position Y from a stand-by position X in response to an opening operation of an outside open handle 30 of a door;

an inner open lever 29 arranged to displace the outer open lever 28 when rotated by an opening of an inside open handle 31 of the door;

a lock lever 36 for connection to an inside lock button 38 of the door and displaceable between an unlocked position U and a locked position L;

an open link 41 arranged to be displaced into an engaging position in which displacement of the outer open lever 28 is transmitted to a ratchet pin 24 of a ratchet 13 when the lock lever 36 is in the unlocked position U and to be displaced into a disengaging position in which the displacement of the outer open lever 28 is not transmitted to the ratchet pin 24 of the ratchet 13 when the lock lever 36 is in the locked position U;

a hook lever ~~50~~ provided on the inner open lever ~~29~~ for switching the lock lever ~~36~~ residing at the locked position L to the unlocked position U in response to the rotation of the inner open lever ~~29~~; and

a pressing spring ~~45~~ connecting the lock lever ~~36~~ and the open link ~~41~~;

wherein when switching the lock lever ~~36~~ to the unlocked position U from the locked position L while the outer open lever ~~28~~ is in the actuated position Y, the pressing spring ~~45~~ is compressed although the open link ~~41~~ is not displaced to the engagement position;

wherein the outer open lever ~~28~~ is returned to the stand-by position X at the time of the state where the pressing spring ~~45~~ is compressed, the open link ~~41~~ is pushed out toward the engaging position by elasticity of the pressing spring ~~45~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The vehicle door latch device according to claim 1, wherein the open link ~~41~~ has a second contact part ~~49~~ which restricts the displacement of the open link ~~41~~ toward the engaging position by being engageably opposed to the ratchet pin ~~24~~ when the lock lever ~~36~~ is in the locked position L and the outer open lever ~~28~~ is in the actuated position Y.